

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Trauma and history have an intriguing connection when connected with a traumatic event in the past that was shared by the collective. In the modern day, the Vietnam War was a historical event that turned traumatic for the US as a nation that not only changed its country, but also its people as well. While the war was long done and both countries have had a partnership until now, the historical account of the war was made mainly through not only those who lost the war but also by the Anglo-Saxon White men, who are the majority. Hence, the traumatic occurrences from the war tend to be biased from the perspective of the majority that silenced others who were directly involved in the war. In this case, Kristin Hanna's *The Women* became another turning point in understanding the Vietnam War through the eyes of women.

This study's first findings showed that *The Women* described the US loss in Vietnam through lies and negligence the government did, rising casualties and loss of morale the US military personnel suffered, as well as anti-war protests by the public, POW families, including Vietnam vets. While the findings described literary how the war was described as loss based on the experience Frankie underwent and the societal circumstances she saw, it also figuratively depicted the turbulence within the public of the US that defined the positivist narration of winning the war, into the failure that the government at that time could not accept yet.

Another finding this study had was the transformation Frankie underwent as an American woman who learned about losing the war. Starting as a supporter of war before descending to skepticism and resisting the war, the transformation she felt depicts another reality that the war was not only a defeat; it was also an immoral war that did not portray the US idealism. The change also destroyed the value of heroes and patriotism the US had that used to be heavily related to masculinity and blind faith toward the nation's interest. Her identity crisis as a Vietnam vet also depicts another reality that shame plays an important role in defining one's transformation as an individual.

Combining these findings, it not only revealed that women partook in the Vietnam War as nurses, but it also unveiled the losing aspect that the US had during the war in Vietnam. As they were sent to the war by the US government, historical trauma became a tool for US women nurses in Vietnam to explain both how the war was lost and how it changed them as Americans. While many believed that women and those who went against the war had no power against the government, the reality that *The Women* depicted about US society at that time showed that the public, women, including Vietnam vets, indeed had power that could change the narration about the war that, not only changed individual's perception about war and their government, but also reconstructing the myth the US had during the Vietnam War.